

"The Chicago Convention"

DR. HUMPHREY H. HOOD.

1823-1903.

(Miss Olive Sattley.)

Humphrey Hughes Hood, fourth of the ten children of Lambert and Sarah (Hughes) Hood, was born Sept. 19, 1823, in Philadelphia, of which city his father's family had been residents for four preceding generations. His mother was of Welsh nativity, coming with her parents to this country in early childhood.

In 1837, the family removed to Alton, Ill., and afterward to Otter Creek prairie, then in Green, now in Jersey county. Their stay in the west was only about 18 months, at the end of which time they returned to Philadelphia. In 1848, after reading with a tutor, he entered Jefferson Medical college, of Philadelphia, and was graduated in the spring of 1851. The following autumn found him in Jersey county, Ill., where he had lived a short time during his boyhood. In the summer of 1854 he removed to the new town of Litchfield, which had been laid out the preceding autumn, where he engaged in the practice of his profession, and excepting one year spent in Taylorville, remained a resident thereof until his death.

In June, 1855, he was married to Miss Matilda Woodhouse Jackson, eldest daughter of Mr. Charles S. Jackson, of Jerseyville. Five children were born of this union, of whom three survive: George Perry Hood, of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Misses Sarah Frances Hood and Annie Hughes Hood, of Litchfield. Dr. Hood became a widower Jan. 2, 1867; and July, 1869, was married to Mrs. Abigail Elvira Paden, daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Terry, of Springfield. Their children, both living, are; Harold Hood of Litchfield, and Mrs. Louise Rahmeyer, of Manila, Philippine Islands.

In Sept. 1862, Doctor Hood entered the army with the appointment of assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Seventeenth Illinois volunteer infantry, and, after one year, was appointed surgeon of the Third United States heavy artillery, with headquarters at Ft. Pickering, Memphis, Tenn., holding that position during the three remaining years of his service, a part of which time he was also on the staff of Gen. John E. Smith, as surgeon-in chief of the district of west Tennessee.

When a boy, during his short residence in and near Alton, in 1837 and 1838, his attention was first drawn to the subject of American slavery by the action of the pro-slavery mobs that destroyed the

presses of the Alton Observer and finally murdered its anti-slavery editor, the Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy. These outrages, committed with impunity, together with the bitterly proscriptive and murderous spirit exhibited by many people toward those who condemned them, made the subject of this sketch an abolitionist for life. He, however, before the Civil war, never favored any Federal interference with slavery in the states where it existed; he did believe that its introduction into the territories should be forbidden and that no more slave states should be admitted into the Union. He identified himself with the Free Soil party, whose platform enunciated these views and whose battle cry was, "Free soil, free speech, free press, free labor and free men." He followed that party in 1856, when it was merged into the newly organized Republican party. He voted for the Republican nominees at every presidential election from 1856 to 1900, inclusive. Dr. Hood attended the Republican convention of 1860, which was held in Chicago and which nominated Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. Upon his return to Litchfield he gave an account of the proceedings in a letter addressed to the "Free Press," the Montgomery county Republican newspaper, then published at Hillsboro, Ill., an extract from which may not be inappropriate:

"OLD TIMES.

"The first nomination of Abraham Lincoln, as reported by a citizen of Litchfield, H. H. Hood.

"THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

"LITCHFIELD, ILL., May 24, 1860.

"MR. EDITOR—On the eve of my departure for Chicago, I made you a promise to write you from that city, regarding the proceedings of the National Republican convention. Upon my arrival, however, I found it altogether useless to do so. As it was quite impossible for my communication to reach you in time for the Press of last week, I propose now to give some account of my visit and my impressions of the convention, and the facts connected therewith as understood by me. We left the Litchfield station on the morning train on Tuesday, the 15th inst. Our company was not numerous at this point, but it received constant accession at each succeeding station, so that when we arrived at Mattoon, we were comfortably crowded. Here we changed cars, taking the Illinois Central. Our old friend, John Kitchell, found us at this point. After a short interval of waiting for the northern train, we again moved forward with a long train loaded with "black Republicans," and at each station the cry was "still they come." At the crossing of the Great Western, a fresh inundation poured in upon us, but few of whom found better accommodations than the aisles afforded; but at Urbana, two additional cars were attached which furnished seats for all. At the crossing we were joined by the future Governor of the State, Hon. Richard Yates. We arrived at Chicago at 9:00 o'clock and at once

hurried to the Metropolitan hotel, where we were fortunate in securing a room with a cot for each of our company. After refreshing our inner man at the table, we proceeded to the famed "wigwam," and found a large audience assembled, listening to the Hon. Anson Burlingame. When I entered he was speaking of the certainty of a Republican triumph next fall, no matter who the standard-bearer might be. Of all possible candidates he spoke in terms of appropriate eulogy, paying just tribute to the talents and virtues of each. Of Lincoln he spoke as "the gallant son of Illinois, who fought that wonderful battle of 1858, the like of which had not been known since the time when Michael encountered and subdued the arch fiend."

To view the wigwam alone when crowded with its immense audience, was worth a visit to the Garden city; we hear much of the meanness of Yankeetown, and the liberality of the southerner, but I think Chicago will loose nothing in comparison with Charleston. Let it be remembered that the wigwam was built solely for the use of the Republican convention, whereas the Democratic convention paid \$500 per day for a hall in which to meet. The wigwam is a substantial wooden building, admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was constructed; well ventilated, well lighted, and for speaking and hearing as well arranged as such a building could be. Its dimensions are 180 feet by 100. One-third of this space was assigned for the use of the convention, and was divided into a platform and two spacious committee rooms, one at either end. The platform was seated with settees and the space assigned to each delegation designated by placards on each of which was the name of the state represented. These were elevated so as to be seen from all parts of the building. The speaker's chair was at the rear of the platform and toward it all seats looked. On the wall immediately behind the chair were painted United States flags and the chair was canopied with flags. There were four other larger paintings on the wall representing Justice, Ceres, etc

A portion of the floor in front of the platform was railed off and seated for the use of alternate delegates, members of the press, and the telegraph operators. Outside of this railing were found excellent standing accommodations for gentlemen not fortunate in holding tickets and not accompanied by ladies. In this unfortunate category was your correspondent.

Extending round three sides were spacious galleries appropriated to the use of ladies and their escorts; these were always filled to overflowing. On the front of the galleries were painted the coats of arms of all the states. The roof was arched and well supported by posts and braces as were also the galleries and around all these twined evergreens intermingled with flowers. The whole space over the platform was festooned with evergreens and the tri colors, the red, white and blue; and there were states enough to represent a whole firmament of stars.

It was announced in the morning papers of the 16th, that the doors would be open at 11:00 o'clock. Two hours before that time the crowd was sufficient to fill the vast building, assembled on Lake and Market streets, and when the doors were opened, the rush and pressure were terrific. I was in the center of the crowd and thought myself fortunate in escaping with whole bones. Nevertheless, I tried the experiment again in the afternoon, but that sufficed me. And indeed, my subsequent experience proved that the better way to obtain an eligible position was to wait till the rush was over, and then quietly insinuate one's self through the crowd. In this way I never failed to obtain a position where the whole proceedings of the convention were open to me.

The first day but little of interest to outsiders occurred. Nothing was done beyond organizing and appointing the necessary committees. The morning of the second day was mostly taken up with the report of the committee on credentials, which was finally recommitted, some doubts arising as to the right of the Texas delegates to cast a vote of that state. The report of the committee on business in regard to the rules that should govern the convention also excited some discussion. The committee recommended that on the vote for the president and vice-president, a number equal to the majority of 606 (of which number the convention would consist were all the states represented) should be required to nominate. A minority of the committee recommended that only a majority of all the delegates present should be required. This question was not disposed of when the convention adjourned. In the afternoon the minority report was adopted by a large majority. In regard to Texas the committee reported again in favor of the delegates from that state; the report was adopted amid enthusiastic cheering.

The committee on platform and resolutions also reported during this session. The platform appeared satisfactory to almost everybody in particular. Its reading elicited thunders of applause; particularly the sections in which freedom is affirmed to be the normal condition of the territories and in which protection to home industry, is recommended. With these and other sections the people could not be satisfied with one reading; but after shouting till one might suppose their lungs, if not their enthusiasm, were exhausted, they would demand the reading of them again, when they would again applaud with all the vehemence of the first demonstration.

On the motion to adopt the platform, Mr. Carter, of Ohio, demanded the previous question, which was not sustained. Mr. Giddings moved an amendment, which consisted in appending to the platform a quotation from the Declaration of Independence. This was deemed unnecessary, the truths of the Declaration being affirmed in the second section, and it was voted down. At this point, the Missouri Republican says, that Giddings left the convention, "shaking off the dust of his feet," etc. This is a pure fabrication on the part of that truthful journal. I had my eyes on Mr. Giddings during nearly the whole of the session, and he could not have left without my seeing

him, and he did not leave. Mr. Wilmot proposed to amend the 14th section, by striking out the words, "or any state legislation," etc., regarding them as derogating from state sovereignty; but upon being assured by Carl Schurz that they were not intended to recommend any course of national legislation but merely to express an opinion, he withdrew the motion.

Mr. Curtis of New York, offered an amendment similar to that presented by Mr. Giddings. It being objected that it had already been voted down, and was therefore out of order, the chair so ruled; whereupon Mr. Blair, of Missouri, protested against the ruling and avowed his willingness to go before the convention on an appeal from the decision. He then explained that this motion proposed to amend the second section, whereas the amendment offered by Mr. Giddings was to be appended to the platform. The chair reversed his decision and the amendment was adopted. And then the platform was adopted unanimously. Pending a motion to go to a ballot for president the convention adjourned.

On the the third day of the convention, it was called to order at 10:00 o'clock. The New York delegation, and the Young Men's Republican Club of New York and many others in favor of the nomination of William H. Seward proceeded in procession from the Richmond house to the wigwam. Many of them wore badges indicating their choice for the candidate, and they were all hopeful and, indeed, confident that their favorite would be the favorite of the convention. But they were doomed to disappointment. The first ballot revealed the fact that Seward had more friends in the convention than any other man, but, it also revealed the fact, that he would not be nominated. On the first ballot the most determined opponents of his nomination scattered their votes, and it was well known that Lincoln was their second choice. On the second ballot Seward gained 11, and Lincoln 79 votes; the former still having a majority. On the final vote when all the states had been called, Lincoln still lacked two votes of the required number. Then Carter, of Ohio, rose and amid breathless silence, announced that Ohio changed four votes from Chase to Lincoln. This was enough and for ten minutes, nothing was heard but the roar of human voices and then came booming through the open doors and windows the voice of the first gun of the campaign. In five minutes from that time the dispatch from New York, 1,000 miles distant, announcing, "One hundred guns are now being fired in the park in honor of the nomination," was read in the convention.

Before the vote was counted State after State rose and changed its vote to Lincoln. Mr. Evarts, of New York, demanded: "Can New York have the silence of the convention?" Instantly every voice was hushed. He stated that he desired to make a motion and would inquire if the result of the ballot was announced. It was not, he would await that announcement. When the result was declared he took the floor, or rather a table, and in a speech which won the admiration of all that heard it; which was characterized alike by dignity, earnestness and deep devotion to the great statesman of New York, he pronounced a most glowing eulogy upon William H. Seward. It might

be deemed honor enough to be accounted worthy of such devoted friendship. At the close he moved that the nomination of Abraham Lincoln be declared unanimous; at the same time elevating high above him a life sized portrait of "Honest Old Abe."

The motion was first seconded by Blair, of Michigan. He said: "We give up William Henry Seward with some beating of the heart, with some quivering of the nerves, but the choice of the convention is the choice of Michigan." He was followed by Anderson of Massachusetts and Carl Schurz of Wisconsin. This closed the morning session.

The convention re-assembled at 5 o'clock and at once proceeded to vote for vice president. Hannibal Hamlin was chosen on the second ballot. It may seem somewhat remarkable that Texas should vote steadily in the morning for Seward and in the afternoon cast six votes for Sam Houston. After appointing the committee the convention adjourned sine die.

In the evening a grand ratification meeting was held in the wigwam. Pomeroy, Giddings, Yates and many others spoke. The banner of the "Young Men's Republican Club," of New York, attracted much attention, (they brought it with them) inscribed:

"For President....."

the blank to be filled, as they hoped, with the name of William H. Seward, but, instead, it bore the name of Abraham Lincoln, thus:

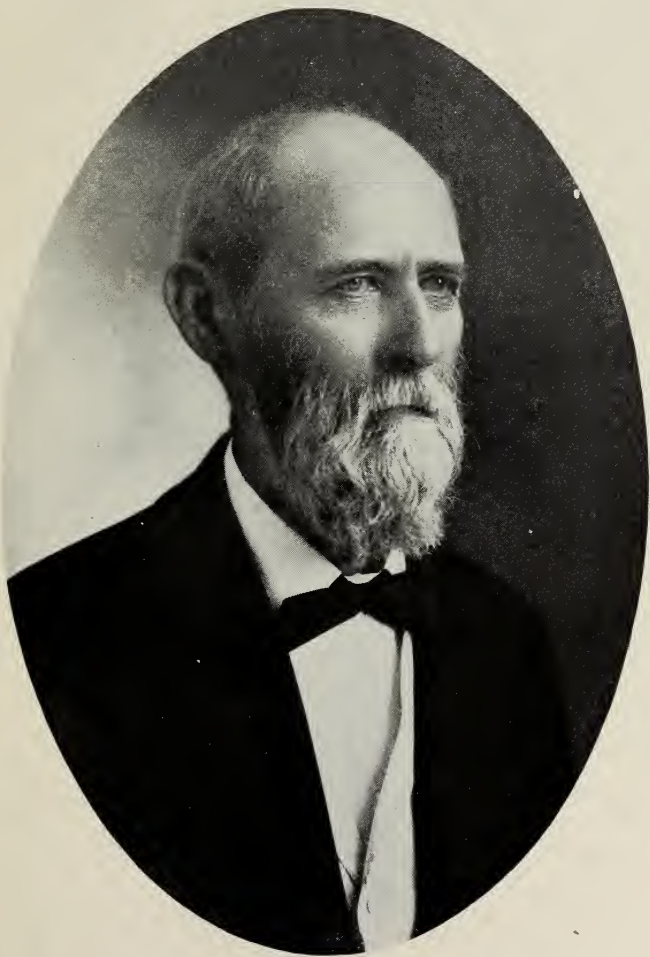
FOR PRESIDENT

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

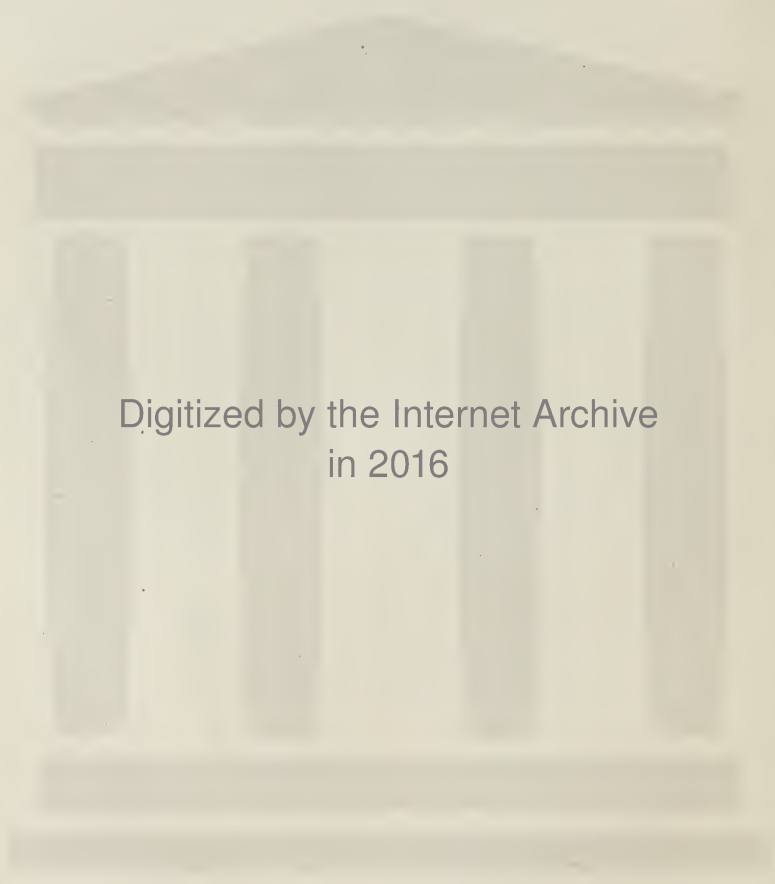
Thus ended the Chicago National convention. May we not congratulate ourselves on the happy results of its labors? Those results have satisfied all republicans."

Dr. Hood was never a seeker after public position, but, nevertheless, was not infrequently chosen to office. He was three times elected an alderman of the city of Litchfield and once the supervisor of North Litchfield township. He served many years as a member of the Litchfield board of education, and for much of that time was its secretary. Dr Hood was one of the first to take measures toward the establishment of a free public library in Litchfield. On the currency question he advocated the single standard long before it was made a plank in any partisan platform.

In 1884 he was elected as the republican minority representative for the legislative district composed of Christian and Montgomery



Dr. Humphrey H. Hood.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

counties, and was one of the memorable "One Hundred and Three" by whose votes John A. Logan was, for the last time, returned to the United States senate. His official duties in every case were discharged with the most scrupulous and careful consideration for the interests of his constituents and the people of the State. The same adherence to his convictions of duty and a close observance of the Golden Rule in his business and social relations, together with a warm fidelity to the interests of his friends, characterized his conduct in private life.

Dr. Hood was always a total abstainer from alcoholic liquors as a beverage; and, as a medicine, used and prescribed it very sparingly, and would not permit the sale of intoxicating liquors on any premises owned by him. In 1855, when a prohibitory liquor law was submitted to vote in Illinois, he gave his vote and voice in its favor. In later years he entertained but little hope of the successful enforcement or prohibition by statute and favored a local option law that would give every town, city or county the opportunity to vote on the question whenever a sufficient number of voters should ask for its submission.

Dr. Hood was from childhood a regular attendant upon religious services, and after his removal to Illinois, in 1852, upon those of the Presbyterian church, to the support of which he freely contributed, but with that communion he did not unite until 1890. During his remaining years he was active in church and Sunday school work.

His death occurred in his 80th year, on Friday, Feb. 20, 1903, after an illness of but four days. Although in failing health for ten years or longer, he had been giving unremitting attention to business, and, on the day preceding the fatal attack, was apparently in more than ordinarily good health. His funeral, under the direction of the Grand Army of the Republic, took place at the Litchfield Presbyterian church on the Sunday following his decease, and was very largely attended.

BERNARD STUVE, M. D.

1829-1903.

(Dr. J. F. Snyder.)

It is said of an eminent man of old that he has done things worthy to be written; that he has written things worthy to be read; and by his life has contributed to the welfare of the republic and the happiness of mankind. He on whom this transcendent eulogy can be pronounced with even partial trust is entitled to the gratitude of his race. Nowhere within the broad limits of the commonwealth of Illinois has there died a man over whom this might more truthfully be said than Dr Bernard Stuve, who for many years figured prominently in Illinois as a lawyer and author and who in his private life was distinguished by all that marks the true gentleman. It was in the little village of Vechta in the duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, that Doctor Stuve first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 10th of September, 1829. When a lad of five summers he was brought to America by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Henry Stuve. The father was a bridge builder and contractor and in the hope of enjoying better business opportunities in the new world he severed the connections that bound him to the fatherland and with his wife and children sailed for the United States. He landed at New York, but did not tarry in the east, making his way at once to the west with its great and growing opportunities. He settled first in Minster, Auglaise county, O. Two of the children of the family died in infancy, another died in early manhood and the eldest of the five children departed this life about ten years ago, leaving Bernard Stuvé the sole survivor of the family for a number of years.

In the schools of Minster, O, Doctor Stuvé acquired a thorough English education, while from his parents he received instruction in the German language. His choice of a vocation was influenced by relatives, especially an uncle, who resided in Cincinnati and was a practicing physician. This uncle induced Doctor Stuvé to take up the study of medicine and directed his reading in the elementary branches of medical science. His lecture course was pursued in Cincinnati Medical college, of which he was a graduate with the class of March, 1851. Having prepared for active practice he then located in Benton, Scott county, Mo., where he soon demonstrated his skill and ability to cope with the intricate problems that continually face the physician. He did not find the place, however, entirely to his liking and within a short time established his home in Evansville, Ind. Still his ambitions and expectations were not satisfied and Illinois became the Mecca of his hopes. He journeyed only